DOCUMENT RESUME

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INSTITUTION	Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, CA.
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ABSTRACT

Tomb art provides an invaluable window into China's history and culture. The understanding that spirits of dead ancestors can exert power and influence over the lives of their descendants has been a central tenet of the Chinese belief system, propelling the culture into practices ensuring the provision of comfort and status to the deceased in their afterlife, as well as respectful preservation of their burial places. This packet contains materials based on a museum exhibition of tomb art from ancient Xi'an, a major center of power for most of an 1800-year period, beginning with the founding of the Zhou Dynasty in 1100 B.C. It focuses on life and death in the capital of Imperial China to the end of its classical period with the fall of the Tang Dynasty in A.D. 906. Materials include historic background of Chinese culture through the Qin, Han, and Sui, and Tang Dynasties based on archaeological tomb findings. A pronunciation guide, illustrations of tomb figures in various costumes, maps, a timeline of Chinese history, and a poster of "Chinese Warriors to Arm and Color" also are provided. The slide list introduces 20 provided slides that are featured in the "Slide Descriptions" and "Slide Script." A bibliography completes the packet. (MM)

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